

Solar Energy for New Jersey Agriculture

Rising energy costs and continued improvements in technology have renewed interests in finding alternatives to supplement eclectic use on farms. As new energy technologies are developed, government incentive programs become available with the goal of making such alternatives mainstream. An alternative energy source that farms in New Jersey should evaluate is solar.

Solar technology can help you:

- Stabilize or reduce your energy costs
- Generate your own supply of clean energy
- Provide backup power in case of outages
- Increase the value of your property
- Play a role in creating a cleaner environment

Following is an outline of steps that should be taken to determine if solar energy is cost effective for your farming operation.

Getting Started

1. Calculate your farm's annual electric usage and cost (refer to utility bills).
Usage _____ kW Cost \$ _____
2. Visit the Board of Public Utilities website: www.njcleanenergy.com
Note: It may be helpful to print the pages as you go along.
3. Click on [Renewable Energy Program](#) on the top right hand side of the webpage, then click on the following sites:
 - A. [Getting Started](#)
 - B. [Plug into the Sun](#)
Click on the following topics: [Why Solar?](#)
[How Solar Works](#)
[Benefits](#)
[Size and Features](#)
[Costs, Incentives & Savings](#)
[Selecting a Contractor](#)
[Permits, Agreements & Warranties](#)
[Terms to Know](#)
[Getting Help](#)
 - C. [Clean Power Estimator](#)
The estimator will help you analyze alternatives related to the purchase and installation of a solar electric system.

4. Click back to [Renewable Energy Program](#) and scroll down. On the left hand side click on [Program Eligibility](#).
5. At this point, you should be ready to go to the next step of [Find a Vendor](#) found under [Renewable Energy Program](#) (scroll down on right hand side).

Note: The NJCleanenergy.com website also offers information on wind and biomass technologies.